

[4th March 1926]

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"The answer is: 'The existing law requires that searches by Abkari officers should be made in the presence of witnesses . . . ' May I know, Sir, whether these searches are made in the presence of respectable inhabitants as prayed for in the petition?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Will the hon. Member kindly repeat the question?"

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"This question relates to the hon. the Minister for Education. The answer is that searches are made in the presence of witnesses. But what has been prayed for in the petition is that searches should be made in the presence of two or more respectable inhabitants of the locality. What I want to know is whether the Government require that these searches should be made in the presence of respectable inhabitants of the locality."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I suppose witnesses called in are always respectable."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know if these witnesses include also some of the Abkari staff as it sometimes happens?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"If that is the personal experience of my hon. Friend, certainly that will be examined."

Mr. J. A. SILDANEA :—"I want to know whether there is any presumption that all witnesses are respectable. The presumption as also the practice is otherwise."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is a matter of opinion, evidently"

Depressed Classes.

Announcement of G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., in Komaralingam village.

* 1516 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be please to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the depressed classes have no free access to the post office in the agrapharam of Komaralingam village, Udamalpet taluk, Coimbatore district, through the agrapharam pathway;

(b) whether the G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., dated the 25th September 1924, was announced in the Komaralingam agrapharam, Udamalpet taluk, Coimbatore district; and

(c) if the contents of the Government Order were not announced in Komaralingam agrapharam, the reason for not announcing the same?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 611 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th October 1925.

(b) & (c) The Government have no reason to think that the Government Order referred to has not been published.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Sir, here the Government are referring me to question No. 611 in the answer to which I find the following: 'The Local Government have no administrative control over the location of post offices' Now, Sir, the question involved in this is with reference to the depressed

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classes and all classes of people passing through the public path-way in Agraharams. The depressed classes are allowed through the backyards like jackals."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member should not use expressions which are not necessary for the putting of this question."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"Very well, Sir. I will not do so hereafter (laughter). But, I feel that the so-called depressed classes are treated worse than beasts and that is why I put that technical word 'jackal' (laughter). I want to know, since the depressed classes are not allowed to pass through the public Agraharams whether the G.O. No. 2666, dated 25th September 1924, passed in that connexion is being observed."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Yes, Sir, the Government Order has been published. The answer I gave to the hon. Member on the 29th October 1925, holds good to-day."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I am glad for that answer, Sir. But the hon. the Home Member was kind enough to say in his answer, dated 29th October 1925, that if specific instances were brought to the notice of the Government he would take necessary action. Here is a specific instance and therefore may I know whether he is going to ask the Police to take effective steps in the matter?"

11-15
a.m.

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"We have brought the matter to the notice of the Postmaster-General."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"This is a question of law, Sir, and therefore may I know what the Postmaster-General can do in this matter? He can only remove the post office to some other place; but he cannot do anything in connexion with the depressed classes being prevented from passing through those streets?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"All that we thought was that if the post office was removed to some other place the trouble would stop."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"But we have been deprived of the privilege of passing through the public pathway, Sir? May I expect a suitable answer in connexion with that right of way?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I submit Sir, that that question does not arise out of the answer I have given."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member why the post office should be removed from that place?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is not a matter for the Government of Madras."

Announcement of G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., in Singanallur agraharam.

* 1517 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., dated the 25th September 1924, was announced in the Singanallur agraharam, Singanallur, Coimbatore taluk, Coimbatore district;